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(12) **Patent:**

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(54) COLLAPSIBLE CUE

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(72) Inventors (Country): **BEN STEIN (Not Available)**

(73) Owners (Country): **KOBAY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

(71) Applicants (Country):

(74) Agent:

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ABSTRACT:

CLAIMS: [Show all claims](#)

\*\*\* Note: Data on abstracts and claims is shown in the official language in which it was submitted.

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The present invention relates to the manufacture of cue sticks for the playing of billiards or pool and more particularly to a cue stick construction which is intended for use with reduced size tables, for example, those which are sold for home use as a game or a toy.

As is well known, regulation cue sticks, which are usually made of selected woods carefully finished, polished, and balanced, are a fairly expensive item, and it is not practical to utilize such items in connection with game type tables, mainly collapsible, which are relatively inexpensive and sold through toy stores or the like. On the other hand, if a reasonably good game is to be played, cue sticks must be provided that are at least straight, reasonably strong, and have enough weight. Accordingly, with these problems in mind, the applicant has designed a cue stick construction, which, while being of a reduced overall size to suit the smaller tables, still embodies the main characteristics of a regulation cue stick.

More specifically, the invention consists of a cue stick construction wherein the stick is made up of at least one main hollow body portion of suitable plastic material which is shaped in the usual tapering form with a heavier butt end, a striking tip end, and an elongated weighting rod or wire extending the length of the interior of the body, from butt to tip to give extra strength with a degree of flexibility and also to give the cue stick a weight and balance proportionate to its length. In the preferred construction, the main cue body is made, for example, by injection moulding, in two hollow portions which are interconnected with a pin and socket arrangement at the joint which includes a concentric axial opening adapted to receive the weighting rod. The rod extends from each side of the joint within the hollow body to a connection with the butt and tip ends respectively which are inserted and

secured to the ends of the cue.

This construction, utilizing suitable plastic materials, for example, polystyrene for the body and butt end and a more resilient or rubbery type plastic, for example, vinyl for the tip, can be readily made by standard moulding procedures. The balancing weight which is preferably a length of standard or spring wire, say MB spring wire which is cut in suitable lengths, slightly shorter than the finished cue stick. This provides a relatively low cost production item while still furnishing a useable cue stick.

Having thus generally described the nature of the invention, particular reference will be made to the accompanying drawings showing by way of illustration a preferred embodiment thereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a complete cue stick construction in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged longitudinal section of the construction shown in Figure 1; and

Figure 3 is an exploded view showing the various components making up the cue stick assembly of Figures 1 and 2.

With particular reference to Figure 3 of the drawings, the various components making up the cue stick of the invention as shown in Figure 1 are illustrated in unassembled condition so that their structure may be more clearly shown. These components or parts include the two sections 10 and 12 which are interconnected to form the elongated main body 14 of the cue. As shown, the section 10 includes an integral extension 16, which is provided with an axial opening 18 and has an outer diameter substantially corresponding to the inner diameter of the end 19 of the section 12 so that the two parts can be fitted

together with the extension 16 acting as a joint reinforcement. As shown, the cue sections are of hollow tapering formation with the mating ends corresponding in diameter to give the interconnected portions a continuous taper from end to end. The axial opening 18 in the section 10 is of a sufficient diameter to snugly accommodate a weighting rod 20 which, as previously mentioned, is preferably a length of spring wire cut to the desired dimensions. The butt end of the cue stick is closed off by a separate butt end 24 which is provided with a first

10 portion 26, of equal diameter to the largest diameter end 13 of the cue portion 10, and a second reduced portion 27 of equal diameter to the internal diameter of the cue end 13 so that it can be fitted into and secured to the butt end of the cue as shown in Figure 2. The butt end 24 is also provided with an axial recess 28 which accommodates one end of the weighting rod 20 to keep it concentric with the interior of the cue body. The other or tip end of the cue is closed off by a separate tip end 30 which is made so as to have a first portion 32 of a diameter equal to that of the smallest end 31 of the cue portion

20 12 and a second portion 34 of a diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the cue end 31 so that it can be fitted within and secured to the cue end 31 to complete the assembly. It should be noted that the cue tip end 30 is provided with an axial recess 36 receiving the other end of the weighting rod 20 to keep it in concentric relationship with the cue body. Preferably, as shown in Figure 2, the depth of the axial recesses 28, 36 and the length of the rod 20 are predetermined so as to retain the rod 20 snugly therebetween to prevent axial movement.

As previously mentioned, in the preferred construction, the main cue body portions are moulded from a suitable

30 plastic material, for example, polystyrene, as is the butt end 24. The tip end 30 is also preferably moulded from a more

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resilient or flexible plastic material, for example, vinyl or the like. The weight rod or wire 20 is made from a length of resilient steel wire, for example, MB spring wire of about .162" dia. (6 Gauge Brown & Sharpe). Obviously, in the case where extra weight is required, heavier gauge wire or rod could be utilized.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A cue stick comprising, an elongated hollow body of tapering outline, a relatively thick butt end closing off the largest end of said hollow body, a tip end closing off the smallest end of said body, and an elongated weighting member mounted within and extending the length of said hollow body along its axis to a connection with said butt and tip ends.
2. A cue stick as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said elongated hollow body is made up of two interconnected sections with a reinforcing inner sleeve extending between said two sections at the point of interconnection.
3. A cue stick as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said reinforcing inner sleeve is an integral extension of one of said sections having a portion of reduced diameter fitting within the other of said sections.
4. A cue stick as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said one section integral extension includes an axial recess receiving said weighting member and supporting it in alignment with the axis of said hollow body.
5. A cue stick as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said hollow body butt end and tip end are made from plastic materials with said tip end being made from a plastic material having a greater resilience than the material utilized for said hollow body and butt end.

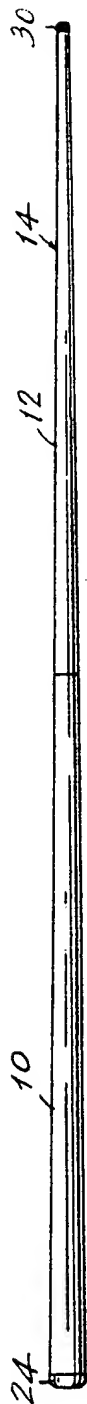


FIG. 1

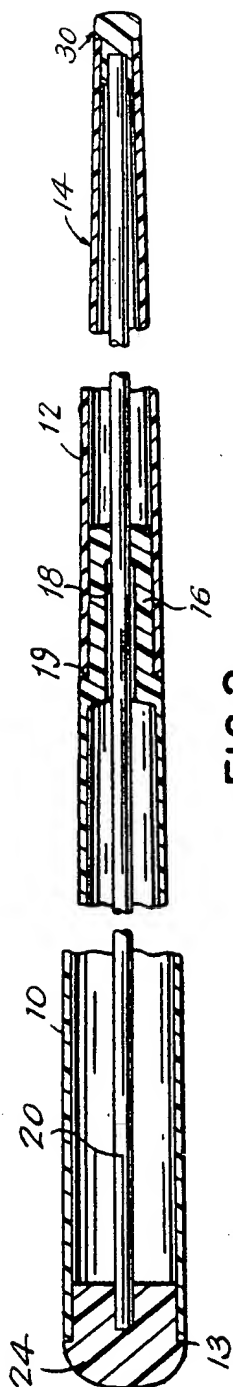


FIG. 2

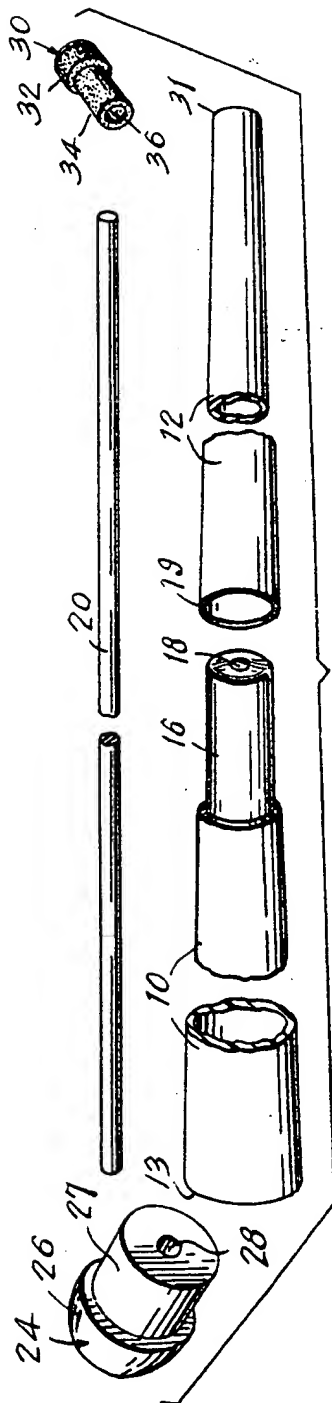


FIG. 3

INVENTOR  
Ben STEIN  
PATENT AGENTS

Alan Dunsley & Co.